

Before the stars went
On strike and Satchmo

Romped to Chinatown
And all lights went out.

-- Norman Macleod

Greenville NC

OKRA AND COATHANGERS

Neglect the okra just two days --
dozens grown too big to eat,
long, ribbed, tough, full of seed.

Wear long sleeves when harvesting --
the leaves and stalks will eat your arms
alive, haired with needles.

But no need to get angry --
any more than at coathangers,
it's in their nature to tangle.

PLUMBING

It is a half-inch union
with three-quarters of the flange
on the female end snapped off by ice.

I had to go to town to replace it
in order to get up enough pressure
to find out an elbow was ruptured.

broad sun at dead noon
twenty bright stadium lights
contest of power